

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 17, 2005

Mr. H. Lee Scott, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.  
702 S.W. 8th Street  
Bentonville, AR 72716

Dear Mr. Scott,

As Members of the United States Congress, we are concerned about Wal-Mart's decision to close its Jonquière, Québec store and we urge your corporation to reconsider this measure.

As you know, this store is one of only two North American Wal-Marts to begin the process of unionization. Having attempted to reach a collective bargaining agreement since October 2004, the United Food and Commercial Workers, who represent your Jonquière employees, applied to Québec's labor minister in the beginning of February 2005 to appoint a mediator. This effectively ended the collective bargaining process and meant that a contract would eventually be imposed on the store. One week later, Wal-Mart Canada announced the closure of its Jonquière location, citing the store's failure to meet financial goals and the toll of unionization on profits.

This closure sends the dire message to your workers and the public that any attempt to unionize in order to request better healthcare, higher wages, or improved benefits will be met with both the loss of jobs by your employees and the loss of a revenue source for the community. This is a regrettable precedent to be set by the world's largest corporation.

A University of California report released in August 2004 claimed that taxpayers in California pay an annual \$86 million in public assistance to workers at Wal-Mart because they earn such low wages, including publicly-subsidized food stamps, health insurance, and housing. It is obvious from this report and other such accounts that unionization may be the only way for Wal-Mart employees to earn a living wage and to provide adequate healthcare to their families. This is a substantial finding considering that Wal-Mart employs 1.5 million associates worldwide.

Labor and management have reached agreements benefiting workers while ensuring profits for decades in small businesses, mid-size companies, and multinational corporations. Grocery chains such as Safeway, A&P, and Kroger's allow unionization, as do retailers like Bloomingdale's, Hecht's, and Value City. Please reconsider your decision to close your Jonquière, Québec location and in doing so export to other countries one of America's proudest traditions – the right to earn an honest, living wage.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We await your reply.